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CHICAGO DOMESTIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Bureau of domestic science 1898

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BUREAU OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

JUNE 17, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and ordered to be printed.

Mr KYLE presented the following

MEMORIAL RELATIVE TO THE BILL (S. 4698) TO ESTABLISH A BUREAU OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY MISS EMMA C. SICKLES.

The subject which I would briefly call to your attention is the first in history, but the last one to be considered in the time of progress. Conventions are held where the best methods of production are ably discussed and public policy influenced. Our great Government has established a department for which \$3,500,000 was appropriated last year for investigations into the production of food. Colleges are established throughout the country where every facility is provided for education in the production of food. State fairs are held with generous appropriations. Institutes are conducted for further consideration of this question, and yet of what value is all of this expenditure and effort if the healthful nutritious product of the soil is mixed with unhealthful, even poisonous, substances, or if the food which may be produced with the greatest skill and manufactured with the highest standard of purity is ruined through the ignorance of the cook? Do you realize that you rise early, work late, deny yourself pleasures that your family may be well fed, and then actually pay your grocer for supplying you with food which poisons your families and undermines their health? Do you know that there is really no protection against this most subtle and most universal form of manslaughter, and that unprincipled men can, without fear, become rich at the cost of the health, even of the life, of the community?

But, unfortunately, very few human beings exercise the same intelligence in feeding themselves or their families which the farmer uses in feeding his cattle, or the farmer's wife observes in feeding the stove. You would not supply the cattle with sawdust nor feed the stove with stones, but great care and forethought are given to the kind of fodder which will produce the desired results, or the fuel needed, and yet the disastrous results of ignorance or neglect of right foods are universal and of incomparably more importance.

I therefore recommend to your consideration and action an effort which may tend toward defending your work from this perilousness of its most essential object, and that you agitate and legislate in such a

manner that the public may be protected. This is not essentially a woman's question. This is not especially woman's work. It underlies all interests of humanity more completely than does any other one subject, but men are the voters; men are the legislators, and men are the principal eaters; at least they are the monitors and the critics as to the food which is cooked, and upon them is the responsibility of providing the facilities for the education of those who prepare the food. The National Pure Food Association has been organized of gentlemen whose reputation and position command for their work the confidence of the public. Their object is public agitation and action for pure food.

The Domestic Science Association has been organized for the purpose of developing a systematic knowledge of household art and for establishing departments where best methods and appliances for the preparation of food can be presented as thoroughly and on as complete and broad a scale as are the departments for presenting methods and appliances for the production of food. These are logical and inevitable accompaniments of the work of agriculture and demand attention. The failure to heed these demands has caused poverty, ill health, and untold misery. Intelligent action would tend to bring about the solution of one of the most difficult public problems with which humanity has to deal.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The Domestic Science Association was incorporated in April, 1894, "for promoting and developing systematic knowledge of best methods and appliances for domestic art and for placing the best foods before the greatest number of people."

During the four years it has been quietly and actively at work educating public opinion, investigating legislative, social, and educational conditions, introducing legislation on this subject in Congress, stimulating interest in the Department of Agriculture, securing the formation of domestic science committees, and action in the Woman's National Council, Farmers' National Congress, and other organizations. It has given practical exhibits of best methods and appliances for the household (or domestic science exhibits) at Madison Square Garden, New York, at the National Electrical Exposition, New York, in Washington, Chicago, and elsewhere.

In March, 1895, the following bill was introduced in Congress by the active influence of Mrs. John M. Palmer, vice-president. The bill was introduced by Senator Gallinger and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor:

Whereas the industrial education of women in household art is of national importance and is a potent element of the labor problem; and

Whereas a complete presentation of best methods and appliances in household arts would tend toward a solution of the labor problem,

Be it enacted, That in connection with an exhibit already undertaken by the Government a special department shall be provided for making an effective presentation of the best methods and appliances in domestic art.

The resolution embodied in the above bill was unanimously indorsed by the Woman's International Council, with the argument that large public interests would be served by according to this important sphere of woman's work the dignity which would be bestowed upon it by such recognition.

A domestic science committee was appointed by the council.

January 7, 1896, a bill for establishing a bureau of domestic science in the Department of Agriculture was introduced into the Senate by

SENATE
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Senator Kyle, chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Education, whose wife is the president of the organization.

The department of domestic science was introduced into the Illinois State Fair in 1896 by Mrs. Palmer and Miss Emma C. Sickels, secretary of the National Association and president of the Chicago society. This domestic science department consisted of an exhibit of appliances and practice cooking classes of young girls.

The Chicago Record advanced \$100 for starting this work at the fair. Miss Sickels conducted the classes in 1896 and 1897 and counted it one of the most gratifying experiences in her work that in the second year the young girls were waiting eagerly for the opening of the classes and took up their work where they had left it the year before, without forgetting any essential point.

Realizing the need that concerted action be taken for establishing these departments of domestic science in connection with the study of agriculture, the following resolution was sent to the Farmers' National Congress in Indianapolis:

Whereas the ultimate object of agriculture is the production of food for mankind.

Whereas that object fails in the most essential point if the food which is produced with skill is ruined in preparation through ignorance: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the National Farmers' Congress, use our active influence and effort toward establishing a bureau of domestic science in the Department of Agriculture at Washington and in the various State agricultural fairs, colleges, and institutes throughout the nation, where best methods and appliances for the preparation of food may be presented in connection with best methods and appliances for its production.

It was approved, and in the convention meeting in St. Paul, 1897, was officially adopted and the following committee on domestic science was appointed by the president of the National Farmers' Congress to act on the resolution: Emma C. Sickels, chairman; Mrs. John M. Palmer, Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. James H. Kyle, Aberdeen, S. Dak.; Mr. John M. Stahl, secretary National Farmers' Congress; Hon. William H. Liggett, dean Minnesota Agricultural College; Mrs. H. Thane Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. Anna L. Woodbury, founder of Washington cooking schools; Hon. Franklin Dye, secretary New Jersey State board of agriculture, and F. E. Dawley, director farmers' institutes, New York State, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Michigan.

Those efforts have been in the direction of "promoting and developing systematic knowledge of best methods and appliances for domestic art."

The other object of the corporation has also received active attention, namely, "best food for the greatest number." In order to meet and overcome the tendency to leave all practical study and presentation of foods in the hands of those "commercially interested," who were only too apt to make representations that would sell the goods regardless of merit, the following resolutions were passed at the regular meeting of the Chicago Domestic Science Association, held Monday, January 18, 1897:

Whereas the interests of the producer, distributor, and consumer are mutual, and whatever tends to the advantage of the one promotes the welfare of the other;

Whereas in the production, manufacture, and distribution of food it is for the mutual advantage of producer and consumer that a high standard be established and maintained, not only in preparation of food for the market, but also in the home;

Whereas the Domestic Science Association is organized for placing the best food before the greatest number of people: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Domestic Science Association of Chicago, will use our active influence and cooperation with the producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food products toward a more intelligent and adequate solution of the food problem, and for a higher standard in the quality and use of food in the various stages of production, manufacture, and preparation.

This was the basis of the National Pure Food Association, an association composed of men and women of national reputation who are directly interested in foods from the medical, sociological, and educational standpoint, having on its board of directors such names as that of Dr. S. J. Jones, ex president of the American Academy of Medicine; Prof. E. J. James, president of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; O. L. Deming, editor of Chicago Grocer, and others.

Acting in cooperation with the Pure Food Association, the Domestic Science Association gave lectures and demonstrations of foods in the important clubs and organizations in Chicago during 1897. The danger to the permanent benefit by poorly prepared "teachers" made this resolution necessary.

The following was adopted March 27, 1897:

Be it further resolved, That our influence and cooperation shall be guided by merit, without favor or prejudice to any; striving to develop and maintain a high standard of food for the market and the home, opposing that which is of low grade or makes false pretense for the sake of gain, and that we urge that those associated with us give us their sincere cooperation in promoting a high standard in preparation of foods, discountenancing those who ignorantly or dishonestly follow methods of instruction not founded on knowledge or fact.

In February the Domestic Science Committee of the Farmers' Congress gave the corn exhibit of the Corn Convention in Chicago.

Washington City is now the center of action.

The plan of the organization is to have a limited working membership, who can readily keep in touch with the development of the central objects, and by continuous action avoid the interruptions and confusion apt to result from frequently changing large bodies.

Mrs. James H. Kyle, wife of chairman of Senate Committee on Labor and Education; Mrs. John M. Palmer, wife of Ex-Senator Palmer, of Illinois; Mrs. Anna L. Woodbury, founder of Washington cooking schools; Mrs. H. Thane Miller (president Mount Auburn Institute); Mrs. M. D. Lincoln (organizer of Woman's National Press Association); Mrs. Harriet Lincoln Coolidge, Miss Emma C. Sickels (organizer), Mrs. E. J. Loomis, Mrs. David Alton, Mrs. Charles Babcock, Mrs. James H. Krebs, Mrs. Rufus Bartlett, and Mrs. Jessie Patten Milner are among those actively identified with the Domestic Science Association. The work is supported entirely by the personal contributions of the directors of the association.

Resolutions sent to Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1897:

Whereas proper food is a vital element in the problem of temperance;

Whereas instruction in the principles of nutritive value of food as a preventive of the need of stimulants would be a most effective education in temperance;

Whereas instruction in quality, use, and preparation of food is a logical sequence to the investigation and experiments in agriculture undertaken at the public expense: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, will take action toward the development of education in the nutritive value of foods at the various centers throughout the nation where investigation and experiments are being conducted, at public expense, in the production of food.

This resolution was sent from the Domestic Science Association of Chicago.

[CORPORATE SEAL.]

EMMA C. SICKELS,
President.

MARTHA H. KREES,
Secretary.

Mrs. DAVID ALTON,
Former President South Side Woman's Christian Temperance Union,
Mrs. CHARLES BABCOCK,
Former Secretary South Side Woman's Christian Temperance Union,
Mrs. E. J. LOOMIS,
Committee.

Copies of this resolution were sent to the local executive committee of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, to the Illinois State Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and to the national convention, where they were referred to the committee on resolutions. The Domestic Science Association was informed that a "committee would be appointed in this important work." This has been done, and action is being taken by that body, in line with the following resolution, for cooperation with pure-food manufacturers.

Much missionary work has been done in the study of foods by the Domestic Science Association, which has branched out in unexpected directions, and both directly and indirectly bears evidence of the soundness of the principles and practicability of its methods.

Following is a copy of bill recently introduced in the United States Senate:

A BILL to establish a bureau of domestic science.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of ten thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, from any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of establishing, in connection with the Department of Agriculture, a bureau of domestic science, in which investigations as to methods and appliances for the preparation of food shall be conducted; and said bureau shall make an annual report of such investigations, which shall be printed for general distribution.

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